

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1922.

Topics of the Day in Society

Suit Reveals Little Known
Member of the Astor FamilyAction in Behalf of John Jacob Astor, Jr., and His
Half Sister, Alice Muriel Astor, Brings Arm-
strong Branch Into View.

SOME of the most interesting sidelights on New York society come frequently through the unromantic grind of real estate transfers and the rigid routine of the Surrogate's office. Citations percolate through the mails into remote corners of the world and bring to light unsuspected scions of noted families.

Recently it has been brought in upon persons, who do not allow a florid present to blot out a picturesque and less hectic past, that New York society is old enough to become historic if as has been affirmed it takes four generations to make anything historic.

There are nine generations in the local records of some New York families, but those nine generations take the mind back to a period that has little but a fancied influence over society of the second decade of the twentieth century.

There is pride of descent and a certain feeling of pardonable self-confidence in knowing that one's ancestors were men and women of consequence in this community back in the seventeenth century, but it was only when those distinguished ancestors laid the financial foundations from which their descendants to-day receive their unearned increment that the past became actually a part of the present.

Modern society has been described as an aristocracy of trade. Personal achievement makes possible participation in the most costly of recreations—society and its games. But in this regard society to-day is no different from society in the past. In every era the basis was laid in the capital that made this important phase of life possible. Culture, personal influence, philanthropic and charitable expansion and achievement in public life have in every social age developed from the solid financial foundations laid by those big minds of other generations.

Old Enough to Talk Objectively.

New York society is old enough now to talk objectively about such things. The men and women who lived a century ago in New York are very much alive in their influence among their descendants to-day, for the reason that many families who are in to-day's foreground flourish because their progenitors unto the third, fourth and fifth generations were business men with foresight. New York society thus qualifies as an historical object, bringing as it does to-day our past so close to the present.

There are some families that trace the sources of their present fortunes in this country into the middle of the seventeenth century. Not long ago the newest baby in a prominent family of New York and Newport was christened and on the occasion of that family gathering a parcel of family property was set aside for the future financial benefit of the new arrival. The legal formula in clearing the title necessitated going into the safe deposit vault and bringing to light an ancient deed signed by the Rhode Island founder of the family fortune considerably more than two hundred and fifty years ago.

There are some other New York families that can boast of such tangible history as is embodied in that ancient Rhode Island deed bearing the signature of one of the most famous

men in Colonial history. There are many more whose unearned increments were founded with the revival of trade in New York immediately following the Revolutionary War. It was one of these later families that has just come to public attention through routine of a Surrogate's office and a subsequent court grind.

The family is that of Astor, and the late member of the family circle concerned was one of those men who became almost completely submerged in the rush of modern social life. His name was James S. Armstrong.

James S. Armstrong, one of the very numerous offshoots of the Astor family of the second New York generation, died last summer in his home in Red Hook, N. Y., leaving an estate valued at \$150,000. The residuary legate under the will was Mrs. Caroline Maul, who had been Mrs. Armstrong's housekeeper. On September 11 the Surrogate in Poughkeepsie appointed two guardians for John Jacob Astor, Jr., and Miss Alice Muriel Astor. The appointment was made in proceedings to interpret the will of Mrs. Maul, the question being whether or not the sum of \$15,000 should go to John Jacob Astor, Jr., and Alice Muriel Astor or to the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals," which is a non-existent corporation.

It was affirmed in behalf of the late Mrs. Maul that she had meant "The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals." John Jacob Astor, Jr., is a son of the late Col. John Jacob Astor and the present Mrs. William K. Dick. He is 10 years old and a half brother of Mr. Vincent Astor, head of the American branch of his family. Miss Alice Muriel Astor is a daughter of the late Col. John Jacob Astor and the present Lady Ribblesdale. She is 17 years old and is a full sister of Mr. Vincent Astor.

Against the Astor Children.

Last Monday Surrogate Gleason in Poughkeepsie decided against the minor Astor children. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals got the \$15,000. The lawyers for the minor Astor children found, apparently, no basis for contesting the will of Mr. Armstrong's housekeeper in other regards.

No explanation was made in the Surrogate's court why John Jacob Astor, Jr., and Miss Alice Muriel Astor, his half sister, were singled out as claimants for the \$15,000, as there are in existence considerably more than 100 members of the family who might have had as well based claim for this part of the Armstrong estate as the great Astor fortune. Apparently the others did not find it worth while to come forward.

Assuming that the sum of money in question might have been large enough to make a legal fight worth while, claimants for this floating portion of the Astor fortune could have been found in the Bored, Bristed, Carew, Carroll, Chanler, Roosevelt, Livingston, Chapman, Delano, Drayton, Emmet, Jay, Kane, Keefe, Langdon, Lowndes, Stevens, Townsend, Van Allen, Wood, Wilks, Wilson, Robinson, Aldrich and Phelps in this country and De Groenings, De Noteboeck, Zborowski, De Stuers, De Pallandt and Kumpff families abroad.

The ramifications of the family founded in New York by the first John Jacob Astor, who was born in 1763, and his wife, Sarah Todd, first cousin

Some of the Debutantes of the Season and a Bride of the Future



MISS HELEN M. BROWN, DEBUTANTE DAUGHTER OF MR. AND MRS. ARCHIBALD M. BROWN AND A GRAND DAUGHTER OF MR. JAMES CRESSON PARRISH
Photo © BACHKACH

CLAIRE SCHENCK, DAUGHTER OF MR. AND MRS. EDWIN S. SCHENCK, A DEBUTANTE
Photo by A. Dupont

MISS M. LEONA HURD, DEBUTANTE DAUGHTER OF DR. AND MRS. LEE MAIDMENT HURD
Photo by W. B. Stage

More Debutantes
This Season Calls
for Full CalendarRound of Introducing Parties
for Girls Starts
Early.

WHILE many dates of entertainments for debutantes have been decided on, some of them may have to be changed before the season starts in earnest. The most of them have been arranged definitely, and there will be a continuous round of entertaining, which will begin much earlier than customary, owing to the great number of girls who are to be introduced. One of the earliest entertainments will be given next Thursday by Mrs. William G. Rockefeller. It will be a luncheon at the Colony Club for her young relative, Miss Abby Rockefeller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and granddaughter of Mr. John D. Rockefeller and also of the late Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island.

Mrs. Barclay Ullman, who has recently opened her house at 24 East Eighty-first street, will give there on the afternoon of November 17 a large reception, when she will introduce her only daughter, Miss Audrey Barclay Ullman, who returned last month after two years at school in Paris. The same day Mrs. Winchester Fitch, 21 East Eighty-first street, is giving a luncheon for Miss Dora Hotchkiss, who later on will be formally introduced by her mother, Mrs. Horace L. Hotchkiss, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., have chosen the night of November 22, when they will be giving a large dinner at the Plaza to introduce their daughter, Miss Abby Rockefeller.

For Miss Catherine Vanderbilt.

Thanksgiving eve will be marked by a dinner for Miss Catherine Vanderbilt, daughter of Mr. Reginald C. Vanderbilt, and Mrs. Sydney J. Colford, Jr., which will be given by Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt at 666 Fifth avenue. Thanksgiving night, which as a rule has been marked by festivities of the home circle, has been taken for two dances. Mrs. Don Morrison will give a large dinner followed by a dance at the Plaza for her granddaughter, Miss Adele S. Kelley, whose mother, Mrs. Albert Tevis Kelley, is in mourning.

At the Ritz-Carlton that night Mr. and Mrs. D. Thomas Moore of 55 East Forty-eighth street will give a dance for their daughter, Miss Mary Moore. On the night of December 1 a dance will be given for Miss Sybil B. Bliss, debutante daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Phelps Bliss, by her sister, Mrs. Hermann C. Schwab, as Mrs. Bliss is in mourning.

The same night Mr. and Mrs. Lewis B. Gawtry will give a dinner at the Ritz-Carlton for their daughter, Miss Beatrice Gawtry, to be followed by a theater party, and later their guests will appear at the dance to be for Miss Bliss.

Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Peterson will hold an evening reception at 231 East Forty-eighth street on December 2 to introduce their daughter, Miss Virginia E. Peterson, which will be something of a change from the conventional afternoon gatherings. That night there will be a large dance at the Plaza for the joint introduction of Miss Alice McKim Voss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Nelson Voss, and Miss Helen Jenkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Jenkins. On the same date Dr. and Mrs. Lee Maidment Hurd of 39 East Fifteenth street are holding a reception to intro-

duce their daughter, Miss Leona Hurd. Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Stettinius have decided to hold an old-fashioned afternoon reception at 1021 Park avenue on December 6, when they will introduce their second daughter, Miss Betty Stettinius, who is with her parents in Locust Valley.

The night of December 8 will be marked by the first Junior Assembly of this season at the Ritz-Carlton, and in advance of it several dinners will be given, one of the largest by Mrs. John D. Prentice, who is a member of the committee of the dance. Mrs. Prentice's guests will include many debutantes. While the first midyear dance, which is set for the night of December 9, is not intended for debutantes, it will be an event of much interest to those who have been out in society three years or more. It will be held, as for some years, in the main ballroom suite of the Ritz-Carlton. Mrs. Bertrand G. Goodhue will give a luncheon December 12 at the Colony Club for her daughter, Miss Frances B. Goodhue. The night following Assistant Attorney-General and Mrs. William Warner Hopkin will give a dance at the Ritz-Carlton to introduce their daughter, Miss Mary Gallatin Hopkin, who has been in Europe with her mother since the latter part of September. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Allen of Pelham Manor will give a dance on the night of December 15 at the Ritz-Carlton for their daughter, Miss Priscilla Allen.

The Misses Gladys and Estelle Wilkes, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Wilkes, will be introduced to society on December 1. Mr. and Mrs. George Arents, Jr., will give an afternoon reception with dancing at the Ritz-Carlton on December 21 for their daughter, Miss Dorothy Richardson Arents. Mr. and Mrs. John C. McCall have selected the night of December 22 when they will give a large dance at the Ritz-Carlton for their daughter, Miss Polly McCall; and on the same night Mrs. John Prentice Kellogg will give a large dinner for her daughter, Miss Barbara Kellogg, afterwards taking her guests to the McCall dance. Another dance of that night will be given by Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. B. Page at Sherry's for their daughter, Miss Ruth K. Page. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schneidman, Jr., will have a dance on the night of December 23 at the Ritz-Carlton to introduce their daughter, Miss Emily Schneidman.

Mr. and Mrs. Garrett B. Kip will give an afternoon reception at the Ritz-Carlton to introduce their daughter, Miss Cora de Peyser Kip. That night at the same hotel Mrs. N. Thayer Robb will give a dance to introduce her daughter, Miss Cornelia "An Rensselaer Robb. That afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Clarence C. Varnum will give a large reception in the ball room of the Colony Club to introduce their daughter, Miss Valerie Varnum.

A Christmas Night Dance.

It has been found necessary to utilize Christmas night for one of the dances which will be given by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Schenck to introduce their daughter, Miss Claire Schenck, who was in Southampton last summer, after returning from Europe with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. H. Edward Manville have selected December 26 when they will hold a large reception during the afternoon in the ball room suite of the Ritz-Carlton to introduce their daughter, Miss Estelle Manville. After dinner there Mr. and Mrs. Manville will take a number of their young friends to a theater. Then back to the Ritz-Carlton for supper and dancing. Mr. and Mrs. Justus Rupert will give a dance that night at the Plaza for their daughter, Miss Sallie Rupert, who is a student at Vassar. Mrs. Mirtum Pinchot will give a dance on the night of December 28 for her daughter, Miss Pinchot, but it will be a sub-debutante party, as Miss Pinchot's formal introduction to society will not take place before another year.



MISS LOUISE MORRIS, DAUGHTER OF MR. AND MRS. DAVE HENNING MORRIS, SHE WILL BE MARRIED TO MR. DUDLEY HOLBROOK MILLS NEXT WEDNESDAY
Photo by A. Dupont

Calendar of Events for the Week

- MONDAY.**
Wedding of Miss Marie Gladys O'Donohue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. O'Donohue, Jr., to Mr. Charles Robert Coster Steers, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Steers, the St. Regis, 4 P. M.
Wedding of Miss Katherine Kent, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Edward Kent, to Mr. C. Huntington Erhart, at Jericho House, the country place of the bride's parents, in Jericho, L. I., 4:30 P. M.
Reception for the Hon. John Fortescue and Mrs. Fortescue, English Speaking Union, 245 Madison avenue, evening.
- TUESDAY.**
Hunt breakfast by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goelt at their country place in Chester, N. Y.
Meet of the United Hunts Association, Belmont Park, following luncheon at the Turf and Field Club.
- WEDNESDAY.**
Wedding of Miss Louise Morris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hennen Morris, to Mr. Dudley Holbrook Mills, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, 4 P. M.
Mrs. H. Newell Reynolds, luncheon for her debutante daughter, Miss Harriet Reynolds, Sherry's.
Mrs. Miller Graves, 59 East Ninety-second street, a dinner.
- THURSDAY.**
Mrs. William G. Rockefeller, luncheon at the Colony Club for Miss Abby Rockefeller, debutante daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
Fashion Show in aid of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Club, ballroom of the Plaza, afternoon and evening.
Wedding of Miss Margaret Barrett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Barrett, to Mr. David Field Griffin, Presbyterian Church, White Plains, N. Y., 4 P. M.
- FRIDAY.**
Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus W. Miller, dinner and dance, Sherry's.
Victory Ball, ballroom suite of the Waldorf-Astoria.
- SATURDAY.**
Mrs. Percy Hamilton Stewart and Miss Eleanor Cochran Stewart, afternoon reception at their country place in Plainfield, N. J.
Wedding of Miss Elaine Taylor English, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. English, to Mr. Basil Gordon St. Luke's Church, Germantown, Pa., afternoon.

Miss Morris and
Mr. Mills to Wed
on Her BirthdayOther Important Marriages to
Link Well Known New
York Families.

THESE are busy days not only for the debutantes, but the future brides as well, arranging the many details in connection with their weddings, selection of their trousseaux and attending the various informal entertainments given in their honor.

Miss Louise Morris will celebrate her twenty-first birthday on Wednesday by becoming a bride. Her marriage to Mr. Dudley Holbrook Mills will take place in the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and the ceremony, which will be performed by the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, will be followed by a reception at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hennen Morris.

Miss Morris is a great-granddaughter of the late William H. Vanderbilt, and also of the late Chief Justice Hennen of Louisiana, and a granddaughter of Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard, and also of the late Mr. and Mrs. John A. Morris of Louisiana and New York. She will have her sister, Miss Emily H. Morris, for her maid of honor and another sister, Miss Alice Vanderbilt Morris, for flower girl. Her other attendants will be her cousin, Miss Louise Vanderbilt Schieffelin and Mrs. John M. Franklin, Miss Bertha Barclay, Miss Sarnia Marquand, Miss Laura Harding, Miss Betsy Flagg, Miss Eleanor King and Miss Sophie Duer.

Mr. John T. Mills, Jr., will be his brother's best man and serving as ushers will be the Messrs. John McKelvey, Charles Ames, Samuel H. Reynolds, Jr., Charles D. Dickey, Jesse Hoyt, Francis H. Cabot, Jr., and Lawrence and Dave Hennen Morris, Jr., brothers of the bride.

Mrs. Kurnal R. Babbitt of 269 Park avenue has announced the engagement of her daughter, Miss Eleanor Babbitt, to Mr. Charles Parker Spaulding, son of Mr. Charles Parker Spaulding of Lowell, Mass. Miss Babbitt made her debut several years ago. She was graduated from the Spence School and is a member of the Junior League. Miss Babbitt is a sister of Mrs. J. Gregory Smith of St. Albans, Vt., who was Miss Genevieve Babbitt.

Their father, the late Kurnal R. Babbitt, was a prominent lawyer in this city. During the war Miss Babbitt served as a nurse in the Fox Hills Hospital. Mr. Spaulding was graduated from Bowdoin in 1917 and served in the A. E. F.

Miss Mary A. Dickson is one of the busiest young women just now making plans for her marriage to Mr. William Melcher Kent, son of Mr. C. Huntington Erhart, which will take place at the country home of her parents in Jericho, L. I. A large wedding had been planned, but owing to the recent death of the bride's grandmother, Mrs. William R. Grace, widow of Mayor Grace, the arrangement was changed and only a few will witness the ceremony, which will be at 4 o'clock.

Miss Kent is a cousin of the Countess of Donoughmore and Mrs. J. S. Phelps. Mr. Erhart is the son of Mr. William M. Erhart of 1055 Fifth avenue and brother of Mrs. Andrew G. de Vegliance, whose husband is first secretary of the Italian Embassy.

Many invitations have been issued for the marriage of Miss Gladys O'Donohue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. O'Donohue, to Mr. Charles Robert Coster Steers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Steers, which will take place tomorrow afternoon in the Hotel St. Regis. The ceremony will be at 4 o'clock and will be performed by Mr. Michael J. Lavelle. It will be followed by a reception.

Miss O'Donohue will be attended by her sister, Mrs. Alwyn Ball 24, as matron of honor, and her cousin, Miss Marie O'Donohue, Mrs. Henry Coster Steers, Mrs. James Butler, Jr., Mrs. George de Lacy, Mrs. Gerald H. Daly and Mrs. Robert McConnell. Mr. Henry Coster Steers will be best man for his brother. The ushers will be the Messrs. J. Rich Steers, Jr., cousin of the bridegroom; Henry B. O'Donohue and Joseph J. O'Donohue, Jr., brother of the bride; Alwyn Ball 24, Frederick Cunningham Albert Keller, A. Coster Schenck, Robert A. James, Mr. Henry Coster Steers, a granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. O'Donohue.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldron Kittinger Post of 80 Park avenue have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Elizabeth Kittinger Post, to Mr. William Van Rensselaer of 1221 Madison avenue, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maunsel Van Rensselaer. Miss Post is a granddaughter of Mr. Charles A. Post and of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Perkins. Mr. Van Rensselaer was graduated from St. Mark's School, at Yonkers, where he was secretary with the United States Mobile Hospital No. 2.

CHARITY AUCTION BRIDGE.

An auction bridge for the Children's Welfare Federation will be held on the afternoon of December 5 at the Pastors' Club, 110 East Fifty-ninth street. Tickets at \$10 and single tickets at \$2 may be obtained at the offices of the Federation, 105 East Street, or from Mrs. William W. Bates, Mrs. Daniel Bacon, Mrs. Leonard Cox, Mrs. Carroll L. Walworth and Misses Mary Arnold, Dorothy Beale, Virginia de Haven and Edith McCool.

Napoleon Foresaw
Law Establishing
Status of WivesOld Code Makes Passports for
French Born Wives of Amer-
icans Unnecessary.Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK
Herald Bureau,
Paris, Oct. 21.

The Cable law defining the status of foreign women marrying American husbands has at least one peculiar effect not expected by its framers—i. e., as far as French law is concerned it puts the United States marriage laws in the same category as two nations hitherto considered as uncivilized.

This was revealed when French legal experts began to study whether the Cable law would really affect the status of wives under French law, and it was found that Napoleon I., in drawing up the Civil Code still in use here had actually foreseen the possibility of a Cable law.

Article 19 of the Napoleonic code distinctly provides that a French woman marrying a foreigner only loses her French citizenship in the event her husband's country confers upon her, by reason of her marriage, the citizenship of that country. Thus all French wives of American husbands, if married after the coming into effect of the Cable law, will be entitled to obtain a French passport, and as the French Foreign Office will not refuse this, under the provisions of Article 19, there is no need for the American State Department to include French wives on the passport granted by Washington to American husbands.

Brooklyn Junior League
To Act 'Fun and Fashion'

At a luncheon held on the twenty-seventh of October by the members of the Brooklyn Junior League in the Junior League House plans were formulated for the annual entertainment. This year it will be "Fun and Fashion" and will be given the evening of November 23 at the Helix Casino. Several semi-professional vaudeville acts have been secured and the last half of the program will be devoted to a fashion show with the League members acting as models. The feminine members of the audience will have an opportunity of enlarging their winter wardrobes by bidding on the various creations which will be donated by many of the best shops. There will also be a Tombola containing various donations.

Miss Byrne's Orchestra will play for the general dancing. The tickets at \$4 will include refreshments. Mrs. Natalie Jourdan is chairman of the entertainment committee and her assistants are: Mrs. J. Radford English, refreshments; Miss Helen Kene, decorations; Mrs. Henry M. Hinton, invitations; Miss Agnes Thompson, patronesses; Mrs. Norman W. Ward, publicity; Mrs. Frederick B. Webster, advertisements.

December Ball to Help
Grosvenor House Work

To raise funds for Grosvenor Neighborhood House, December has been selected for the annual ball. The committee will include debutantes of this season and last and recent brides. Grosvenor House has outgrown its former quarters in East Fifteenth street and a new house has been built at 321 East Forty-ninth street, which will be formally opened December 4.